

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) To take the benefits of the IT revolution to about 95 per cent of non-English speaking population in the country, the Ministry sponsors research and development through its Technology Development for Indian Languages programme. This has led to significant developments over the past decade. Various tools and utilities have been developed for 18 constitutional languages, including Hindi, for enabling their use in computers and Internet. This effort has been strengthened further with the launch of 13 Resource Centres, last year, each focusing on a set of languages. The Resource Centre at IIT Kanpur is focusing on Hindi. A website in English and Hindi <http://vishwabharatUdil.gov.m//> is operational and a News Letter *Vishwa Bharat @tdit* has been recently released providing information and status of developments in this area.

The Ministry is also formulating a scheme for IT Localization Solutions focusing on Hindi. Internet domain name registration is now possible in nine Indian regional languages, including Hindi.

#### **Joint Initiative with Japan in IT**

2935. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Japan, for the first time, after the Pokhran nuclear test, has decided to put differences aside and focused on joint initiative in Information Technology;
- (b) if so, whether during the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to India a number of agreements have been signed between the two countries in regard to IT sector;
- (c) if so, to what extent the agreements arrived at between the two countries would help to develop IT sector; and
- (d) to what extent Japan would help India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) During their visit of the Japanese Prime Minister in August, 2000, the issue of bilateral cooperation in IT sector was discussed. No agreements were signed.